ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

1. Giving substantial remissions and sufficient time for the payment of pattom

Mr. President: Yesterday, I said that the admissibility of Mr. Moothedan's adjournment motion on the question of "giving substantial remissions and sufficient time for the payment of *pattom*" will be considered by me and a decision given today. Now I have to state that I have disallowed it under Rule 22 (2), as it does not relate to a recent occurrence.

2. Necessity of safeguarding the food supplies

I have also received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. V. J. Mathai to discuss an urgent matter of public importance *viz.*, "the necessity for safe-guarding our food supply arising out of the threatening situation in the Far East as is known from yesterday's papers and the wireless". I disallow this motion also under Rule 25 on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interest.

I now call upon Mr. A. Eachara Menon to move resolution No. 4.

RESOLUTION No. 4

Improvements to the Kambalathara eri in Chittur Taluk

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur Rural):* Mr. President Sir, the resolution that stands in my name reads thus: "*This Council recommends to the Government to take in hand the proposed improvements to the Kambalathara eri in Chittur Taluk with no further delay.*"

Sir, there are three major *anicuts* in the Chittur Taluk. The most important of them is the Mulathura *anicut*. This *eri* is in the Mulathura system. The Mulathura irrigation *chal* goes through this *eri*. This *eri* is of no use to the system. It is rather an impediment. For the water is let into it and after filling it is taken downwards. It takes three days to fill up this *eri* before water can be taken down. The Mulathura *anicut* is constructed by having a dam right across the river. Only water that escapes above the crust of the *anicut* comes to the other *anicuts*. If there is only five feet of water in the *anicut* not a drop of water will go down it.

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The next *anicut* is the Kunnankattupathi *anicut*. That system is supplied with water by percolation from the fields situated along this Mulathura system. That *anicut* is also constructed by a dam across the river. After this, below this *anicut*, not a drop of water can be had in the river.

There are about 6 thousand acres of land under the Thembaramadakku system. It is to provide water during the time of drought to these lands that the Kambalathara *eri* was proposed to be improved. These 6 thousand acres of land will get two wettings at the time of the drought, if the *eri* is improved. Out of this 6,000 acres there will be 60,000 *paras* of seed sowing paddy fields which will yield something like 4,80,000 *paras* of paddy. Giving the *jenmi* his *pattom* the poor cultivating tenant will enjoy 2 lakhs 40,000 *paras* of paddy. It is to help those poor cultivating tenants that this *eri* is supposed to be made and water supplied through it. Even though Moolathara passes through this *eri* this *eri* hinders the fields lying under the Moolathura system from getting water all on a sudden. It was proposed that this channel should be separated from this *eri* and the *eri* itself improved so that water that goes to the sea may be reserved there. There was an allotment of Rs. 50,000 in the Budgets of 1115 and 1116 but there was nothing in the budget for the year 1117. Estimates were prepared and submitted to Government, with the approval of the Chief Engineer. It was returned at first by the Government asking to add an estimate for a high level channel. After that, it was returned to Government with the approval of the Chief Engineer, and the Diwan told me that he was taking the matter to Madras to have it scrutinised by a technical expert. Since then nothing is known of it, except that a reply was given to me to a question by the Chief Engineer to the effect that it was under consideration. Sir, you have in your speech yesterday said that the prosperity of a small section will very much be the prosperity of the whole. 2,40,000 *paras* of paddy will be a great boon to 40 to 50 thousand people and their prosperity will go a long way to improve the prosperity of the country. I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)*: Sir, I have also tabled a resolution on the subject—No. 92 which runs as follows.—

"*This Council recommends to Government not to postpone taking up of the Kambalathara Reservoir scheme*".

I request that discussion on that resolution may be taken up also along with this.

Mr. President: Yes.

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*Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)*: Sir, I second the resolution and in doing so I crave the indulgence of this House to allow me to examine how far our Government has carried out, in practice, their oft-repeated profession that it is their policy to encourage the cultivation of paddy in all possible ways. Sir, it has been many times declared by the Government and by non-official members of this House that the paddy produced in our State is able only to meet about 40 per cent of the paddy requirements of our State and for the rest we are dependent upon imported paddy, paddy imported from far off Burma or Siam. Sir, if the history of this Kambalathara Eri reservoir scheme is gone into, I doubt very much whether the Government is very serious in putting their declared policy into practice. This scheme was mooted a few years ago. In the Budget of 1115 as well as in the Budget of 1116 a lump provision of Rs. 50,000 was included to do the preliminary investigation in connection with the scheme. But when we come to 1117 that big figure Rs. 50,000 finds no place in the Budget. The ryots in the Chittur Taluk under the Thembaramadakku and Kunnangattupathi systems stand to benefit by this reservoir. When this idea was mooted, they were awaiting with great expectations the completion of the scheme. But the disappearance of this amount from the Budget has been a great disappointment to them. In the Chittur Taluk, when a landholder applies to the Government for permission to convert *parambas* into *niloms* or single crop *niloms* into double crop *niloms*, the Government now-a-days don't give him the permission. If he converts a *paramba* into a *nilom* or a single crop *nilom* into a double crop *nilom* the Government do not enter into the register his *paramba* as *nilom* or the converted double crop *nilom* as permanent double crop *nilom*. The Government says it is their policy to encourage the cultivation of paddy but in practice the Government is positively discouraging it. The reasons of the Government are these. They say that the irrigation systems in the Chittur Taluk cannot supply water to more lands. Even to the already existing lands the Government are not in a position to supply enough water. But knowing the facts of the case as I do, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the Moolathura system has received improvements in many directions and the Moolathura system can and does meet all the requirements of the lands which benefit by that system. So far as the Kunnangattupathi and Thembaramadakku systems are concerned, I admit the people get enough water only in normal years. In years of drought they go without water and it is in this connection I say that this scheme, if completed, will be of great use to the ryots there.

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

Now the reason advanced by the Government why they do not allow people under the Moolathara system to convert *parambas* into *niloms* or single crop *niloms* into double crop *niloms* are these. There are some British *niloms* under the Thembaramadakku and Kunnangatupathi systems. Even now it is their complaint that these British lands receive a stepmotherly treatment at the hands of the irrigation authorities in the State. My point is, if the present Kambalathara Eri is enlarged into a big reservoir that won't affect the usefulness of the Moolathura system and at the same time it will enhance the usefulness of both the Kunnangattupathi and the Thembaramadakku systems and thus we can put a stop to the complaints on the part of landholders of British lands. So I request the Government to consider this question in all seriousness so that the ryots of the Chittur Taluk may be benefited. I want to dwell on one more point. In the Chittur Taluk, if a man even if he is prepared to execute an agreement that he will be prepared to go without water in years of drought, applies for permission to convert his *paramba* into a *nilom* or a single crop land into double crop land, the Government do not allow it. The landowner may be prepared to go without water, as I said; but the Government do not allow and in cases where parties have converted *parambas* into *niloms* without authorisation from the Government, the Government levy a penal cess of Rs. 5 per acre for single crop *niloms* and Rs. 10 per acre in the case of double crop *niloms*. That is very hard on the landholders of the Chittur Taluk. That amounts to a positive disservice to the cause of agriculture in the State. On a point of information, Sir, what is the penal water cess per acre in the case ofdouble crop *niloms*? Is it Rs. 7—8—0?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* What is it in the case of single crop *niloms*?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Rs. 5.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Thank you, Sir.

Sir, I suppose I have proved to the satisfaction of the House that the Government is following a policy of definitely discouraging the cultivation of paddy in the State. I request the Government to take up the scheme immediately, so that both the Thembaramadakku and Kunnankattupathi systems may be made more useful and to extend the Moolathara system also which would not affect the other systems. I appeal to this House to support this resolution.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, the question of the construction of the Kambalathara *Eri* has been before the Government for the past few years. It was in connection

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with representations made by the Chittur ryots that the Government decided to look into this question of providing additional storages in the Chittur irrigation systems. As you all know the Chittur irrigation system supplies water from the main river which is called Chittur river in the locality. It is unaugmented by any definite storage with the result that the supply to irrigation is drawn from the daily flow of the river. Not very long ago there had been several *eries* in the system. These *eries* were private owned just to support the lands of the individuals who owned the *eries*. With the improvements which we effected in the irrigation system the ryots naturally thought that they could, instead of storing water in their own *eries*, convert them into paddy fields and get more yield out of them with the result that many *eries* have now been converted into *niloms* and as a direct result the storages which they had once are now not existing. That was one of the chief reasons why you sometimes have water scarcity in certain places in the Chittur irrigation system.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Without interruption, you can insist upon private parties to maintain the *eries* in tact and refuse to give them water.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is one administrative matter which the Government are trying to enforce. As a result of these representations of the Chittur ryots Government drew up a scheme of investigation to know whether they could provide sufficient storages in the Chittur irrigation systems. As a result of our investigations we found that about six such storage sites are available in Chittur. The first and the most important of them is the Kambalathara *Eri*. The storage in this reservoir, when completed according to plan, will be about 55 million cubic feet. Then another storage is about a mile north to the Moolathura system. There the storage is 7 millions. The next is Kunnangattupathi where the storage would 6·5 million gallons. Then there is another site also on the very same system which will have about 9 millions and similarly we have two more reservoirs of that type. We have been investigating these reservoir sites of the Chittur irrigation system. On account of the fact that the Kambalathara *Eri* is the most important of them all we took up investigation of that site. As a result we found in very careful estimating that the cost of the construction of a reservoir was about Rs. 87,000 and this reservoir is to be fed by the river itself. For that purpose a leading channel to the reservoir was also to be constructed. That channel was to tour through very high ridges, and for a length of about two to three miles of this route we have to deal with cuttings to the extent of 40 to 50 feet out of which more

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than 20 to 30 feet will be granite rock and the length in some of these ridges will be as long as 980 feet, 560 feet and so on. I don't say about the difficulty of construction. I am only stating the details of construction. The cost of this high level channel will be about Rs. 82,000 which is as much as the reservoir itself. As a result the total cost of the scheme will be about Rs. 1,70,000 for a storage of 50 million cubic feet. It works out at Rs. 3,500 per million cubic feet. It is a very very high figure and it is very much higher than any of the reservoirs ever constructed here. That is one point. Then the capacity of the reservoir is so small that it could be filled by this canal in five days so that by spending all this money and getting into this troublesome work the capacity that we get is so very small. I also made investigation of the existing *eries* in the Thembaramadakku system which this Kambalathara *eri* is supposed to supply. The private *eries* in that system all put together number about 263. Their combined storage is about 80 million cubic feet of water and the Kambalathara reservoir in comparison is only 55 millions. So that the Government have not yet shelved this question. They are eager to find out if there is sufficient justification in taking up this work, and they also wish to examine the proposals for the construction of other reservoirs in the system if they are more feasible. That was the only reason why the Government have not taken up this work earlier. They are still investigating the question. They are also investigating the question of inducing private people to open up their old *eries* which they have now converted into *niloms*. These points are now being considered and as soon as a decision is reached on that subject we will be taking up this work.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* How was it that this was provided for in the budget for two years?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* At the time when we made the provision in the budget we had only preliminary reports on this question. Our final estimates came only afterwards. It was only then that we found out the exact cost of the work and the actual engineering difficulties. That was the reason why this work was postponed.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* What will be the extent of land irrigated by this scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It will provide enough water for one watering. That means about 4 inches of water in 4,800 and odd acres of land. By itself this *eri* will not completely satisfy all the requirements of that system. Generally, in Chittur, the failure and success depend upon very small quantities of water. If we cannot give water for one month that means failure.

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Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What will be the return?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is purely protective. No additional areas are brought under cultivation. Once in four or five years there used to be a small drought in the system. This will prevent that.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* If the benefit is not commensurate with the cost involved why should you give false hopes to the people?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No false hopes have been given.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will the State get any additional income?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No. It is purely a protective work.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Sir, I wish to explain one additional fact. There was a memorandum from the ryots in British Malabar to whom also we are under an obligation to give water from this irrigation system. That memorandum was submitted by the Collector of Malabar to the Madras Government who transmitted it to this Government for certain explanations. In that memorandum an objection has been taken to the construction of this Kamabalathara *eri* on the ground that by diverting the water that would have otherwise flowed down in a normal channel we are preventing the supply of water to the British ryots who would have otherwise got it, and who, according to the Madras Government, were entitled to get it under the agreement. They raised this objection under a misconception that we are going to deprive them of the little benefit that they would otherwise get. Our object is to store water so that when the time comes, when all the other water is dried up, we will slowly divert this water and supply all the fields that has not been properly understood. An objection is raised in the memorandum which was transmitted to this Government. We have stated the whole case before the Madras Government and the matter is under consideration. I think that has also to be considered before we come to any decision whether this should be given effect to or not.

With reference to the other objection that we are discouraging the conversion of garden land into *nilams* you have missed one point and that is this. We are tied down by an agreement with the British Government that we should not increase the area to be irrigated by this system. The reason for that is this. It was found on a close examination by officers of both Governments in the year 1911 that this system of irrigation could supply only a limited area

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and a list was taken of lands which at that time were being supplied by this irrigation system—lands in both the territories. That list is appended to the agreement which has been come to between the two Governments. It is stated therein that this Government should not allow new conversions. When that is so, how can we prevent new conversions except by penalising it? What is the way by which we can perform our obligations under that agreement? It is only by penalising. They can get water if they want by reserving a portion of their converted area into an *eri*. Another thing that happened was that in most of the paddy fields to which we were obliged under the agreement to give water the *eries* were filled up and the area under cultivation lands to which we are bound to give water increased and so our liability also increased. But our storage of water is the same. The difficulty we feel is in years of drought. In other years we don't feel any difficulty. This year we would have felt water scarcity but for one big shower about two weeks back. Every four years we feel this difficulty. In other years there is no difficulty. The cry is more from British ryots. It is not our policy to discourage paddy cultivation at all.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* On what basis does the British Government object to the enlargement of paddy cultivation under the Moolathura system?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The question arises only in years of drought when there is no water even to water these lands.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Is it the contention of the British Government that if more lands are brought under irrigation in the Moolathura system the British ryots under the other two systems stand to suffer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In the Chittur Taluk the irrigation system is such that if one of them is improved it will adversely affect the other system.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* It is to remove this defect that the present resolution has been tabled.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is very well known that in Chittur Taluk the *eries* under irrigation are over-worked. That is, there are more lands in that area under rice cultivation which can be adequately supplied by the water available during normal periods. So that any further extension of rice cultivation in that area is detrimental to the interests of the existing lands. That is the reason why the Madras Government, and I think

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we also, agreed that no further extension of rice cultivation in that area is advisable.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* You mean the British land-owners.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Both British and Cochin land-owners.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* We are not concerned with the British land-owners.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Drought happens to the Cochin land-owners also. Any extension of the area of cultivation would affect them more.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* The objections raised by the Chief Engineer that the old *eries* have been filled up is a new method of misleading the public. The old *eries* were situated in the low lying lands. These *eries* would not supply water to the high level lands. It is a known fact that water finds its level. Water is very low in these *eries* and it won't be of any use to high level tank. That is the reason why we made those *eries* into *nilams.*

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In olden days water used to flow up.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* The old *eries* were situated in the low lying lands and how can water go to high lands. Water never rises above its level I know.

Another objection was with regard to these new *eries.* It is an admitted fact that if we have new *eries* in high level lands, the water won't stand them. It will get evaporated. That is the reason why we don't have any *eries* in high level lands. High level lands have to be got irrigated by means of water from the rivers by direct irrigation. What is the use of having an *eri* in high level lands if no water will stand in them? It is easy to say that *eries* can be constructed. Without considering all these you are simply misleading the public and you say that the old *eries* have been filled up.

Then with regard to the memorandum of British Malabar people. What we want is the Kambalathara *Eri* to be improved and when there are fishes in the river the water that goes to the sea may be impounded and conserved. What I say is that if the Kambalathara *Eri* is filled up thus with water, that can be used for

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both Cochin and British lands. More of British lands stand to get benefited by this than our Cochin lands. So if this aspect of the matter is brought to the notice of the British Collector, I am sure he will certainly agree to the proposal. For these reasons I wish to know the sense of the House.

Resolution No. 4 put and lost, 7 for and 14 against.

RESOLUTION No. 5

Declaration by Government of their policy as to advancement of constitutional reforms

* **Mr. T. K. Nayar** *(Pazhayanuur):* Sir, I move the following resolution.—

"In view of the orders passed by the Government on the cut motion for "Further Constitutional Reforms" — passed by the Council in the Budget Session of 1116, this Council requests the Government to make a declaration, regarding their policy as to the advancement of Constitutional Reforms in the State."

Mr. President, Sir, I am really at a very great disadvantage. I am accustomed to speak in Malayalam. This is an all important resolution and I would very much like to bring to the notice of the new Diwan the facts that led to the introduction of this new resolution. However, I would request the Diwan President to get my speech translated into English and go through it. I do not want to murder English in the presence of a European Diwan.

ആദ്യംതന്നെ എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതന്മാരായ ഈ നിയമസഭയിലെ അന്യ ദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോടും ആ ഭാഗത്തുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാരോടും ഈ കൊ ച്ചി രാജ്യത്തു് ഉത്തരവാദിതഭരണത്തെപ്പറ്റി നടന്നതായ സംഭവങ്ങൾ—നി ങ്ങൾക്കു ഓർമ്മയുള്ളതായ സംഭവങ്ങൾ— ഒന്നുംകൂടി എടുത്തു പറയുന്നതിൽ ക്ഷമി ക്കണമെന്നാപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. കാരണം ഇപ്പോഴിരിക്കുന്ന കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനു ഉത്തരവാദിതഭരണത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഇവിടെ നടന്ന യാതൊരു സംഭവങ്ങളും അറി വില്ലാത്തനിലയിലുള്ള ഒരു കല്പന ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്തുകയുണ്ടായി. അതുകൊണ്ടു് എന്തെല്ലാമാണു് ഉത്തരവാദിതഭരണസംബന്ധമായി ഇവിടെ നട ന്നിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു മറവി പറ്റിയിട്ടുള്ള കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനെ ഒന്നു ധരിപ്പിക്കേ ണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടു്.

കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തു് ഉത്തരവാദിതഭരണവാദം കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു ഈ നിയമസഭ എന്നു സ്ഥാപിച്ചുവൊ അന്നുമുതല്ക്കുള്ളതാണു്. അതായതു് ൧൯൨൦ മുതൽ ഓരോ കൊല്ലത്തിലും ഈ നിയമസഭയിൽ ഉത്തരവാദിതഭരണത്തിനുള്ള വാദങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പുറമെയുള്ള മറ്റു നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഉള്ളതുപോലെ

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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